

Register, Oct. 7/11

The West Australian, 8 Sep 20/11

It is understood that this morning His Honor the Chief Justice will recommend the Government to appoint Mr. George Coutts Ligertwood, B.A., LL.B., as his associate, in succession to Mr. W. L. Stuart, and that the new officer will begin his duties at the Supreme Court on Monday. The appointment has been occasioned by Mr. Stuart's acceptance of the position of solicitor to the Lands Titles Office. Mr. Ligertwood, who was admitted to the Bar in December last, has had a distinguished scholastic career. He was born in 1888, and is a son of Mr. W. L. Ligertwood, of Maylands. The Norwood State School was his first, and from 1902 to 1904 he attended the Pupil Teachers' School (now the Adelaide High School) in Grote street. There Mr. Ligertwood won an exhibition tenable for three years at the University of Adelaide. He took the degree of B.A. in 1908, and LL.B. in 1910. In 1908, 1909, and 1910 as a law student he won Stow prizes, thus enabling him to be awarded the Stow scholarship. Another success was the gaining of the David Murray scholarship for international law (1909-10). Mr. Ligertwood served his articles with Messrs. Anderson and Gordon. He is a committeeman of the University Law Debating Society, and last year won the prize for best debater. The Chief Justice, when congratulating the new practitioner on his admission to the Bar, remarked that Mr. Ligertwood's brilliant career as a law student at the University may have been equalled, but it had never been surpassed. According to the reports of the examiners, he has an original mind, and not a mind full merely of the manifestations of knowledge.

Advertiser, Oct. 10/11

THE MAWSON EXPEDITION.

INVITATION TO A NEW ZEALAND GEOLOGIST.

Wellington, October 8.

Mr. Speight, assistant curator of the Canterbury Museum and lecturer on geology at the Canterbury College, has been offered the leadership of the party which Dr. Mawson intends to establish at Macquarie Islands. Mr. Speight feels that he will be unable completely to accept the offer, but hopes that arrangements may be made that will allow him to spend a few months at Macquarie, leaving New Zealand perhaps towards the end of next year.

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

APPOINTMENT OF ORGANISER.

A representative of the "West Australian" waited on Sir Winthrop Hackett recently to point out that the Bishop of Perth in the interesting interview he gave on his return from England had stated his belief that it was unnecessary for him to say anything about the University of Western Australia, or what had been done in regard to it by any of those who had visited England to be present at the Coronation. The Bishop said he supposed that "Sir Winthrop had anticipated him along the line." Our representative accordingly asked the Chairman of the late Royal Commission whether he had anything for publication. In reply, Sir Winthrop said:—

As a matter of fact, although a large part of my time was given up to the proposed Western Australian University, on my return to this State I found nobody to call for, or to whom obviously I ought to make a report. The Royal Commission had closed. The Senate does not yet exist. Nobody has been appointed to represent in any sense the proposed University. In short, I found no University authority to whom to make an official statement. Under these circumstances I had better follow the example of the Bishop, and state through the press what exactly has been done so far, and which it will be one of the first works of the Senate to sanction. At the first possible moment I got into close relations with University men in all directions, wherever I thought it possible to get a serviceable hint, or any assistance that would help in pushing forward a movement in which the whole State takes so deep an interest. Personally, I visited both Oxford and Cambridge, in the former case making myself acquainted with the admirable Oxford Appointments Committee—a body of men whose duty it is to supply demands made for professors and lecturers all over the world—and in the latter, which I saw under the aegis of Bishop Riley—an old Caius man—making myself acquainted with the

Splendid Agricultural Work

which is now being carried out in that ancient seat of learning. Like the Bishop, I was fortunate in coming across members of the Scottish Agricultural Commission, it so happening that several of the Commissioners were meeting a number of other agricultural experts at the time arranged for our visit to Cambridge. The experimental, and especially the wheat-breeding farms afforded some of the most interesting of the experiences I met with in my trip to the old country. The buildings Cambridge is erecting to carry out her great scheme of agricultural instruction are of the first order, both as regards conveniences and cost. Indeed, I have to confess that those who suppose these old institutions are ignoring modern ideas in view of the attractions of the old learning are making a mistake. On the contrary, they are, in many cases, taking giant strides to put themselves in the front rank of modern teaching. It is right to admit this, though I still hold the opinion that it is to the modern University—English or elsewhere—that we must look for the most helpful suggestions in the work all of us agree in this State must be pushed forward at whatever cost, and without delay.

Naturally what we were most interested in was the selection of a man to start the work. At first we had some faint hope of discovering a Vice-Chancellor ready to come to us and undertake the full duties of the office. He is the man upon whom the new institution will turn as on a pivot, on whom depends in the very largest measure the possibilities of an early success, where a mistake is likely to be followed by grave consequences, and who proportionately to his value will in all likelihood be the most difficult of all to find. What names have suggested themselves may be reserved for future discussion, but a considerable step was taken towards starting the University at a comparatively early date. In the hope of a fitting appointment being possible, and that the right man for the work might be discovered, the Agent-General (Sir Newton Moore) summoned a meeting in his office of Western Australian educationists interested in the University, that the whole matter might be discussed, to see if light might possibly be thrown upon the probabilities of finding the exact man desired. On the invitation of Sir Newton (who issued the Commission) there attended at the office in Westminster, the Premier, Mr. Wilson, who took the chair; Mr. Andrews (Inspector-General of Schools, W.A., a member of the Royal Commission on the establishment of a University), Mr. Cyril Jackson (formerly Inspector-General of Western Australia), the Bishop of Perth, and myself, respectively Deputy-Chairman and Chairman of the Royal Commission.

at this meeting the matter was fully discussed, and our labours in securing a man whom we believed to be

A Fitting Organiser

were unexpectedly shortened. It was not possible to obtain a Vice-Chancellor at such short notice, but as the result of inquiries there came a letter from Sir Charles Lucas, of the Colonial Office, who, it will be remembered, paid a visit to this State and its capital a couple of years ago. Sir Charles recommended in the highest terms a Mr. Hugh Gunn for our purpose, an Edinburgh graduate, who had lately returned from South Africa. Further investigation had resulted so much in Mr. Gunn's favour that the meeting at Sir Newton's offices appointed a small sub-committee to inquire into Mr. Gunn's qualifications, and ascertain the likelihood of his being able to, at all events, start the preliminary work necessary before the University could enter on its full career. Mr. Jackson (who was the labouring oar of the sub-committee) since his return to London, it may be mentioned, has been chairman of the education committee of the London County Council—a sphere giving unique opportunities for becoming familiar with all educational questions, and whose experience is likely to be of very high value to us, both now and later on. Mr. Jackson is at present deputy-chairman of the great London County Council. In the larger committee Mr. Wilson had drawn up proposals for an engagement to be offered to Mr. Gunn if the sub-committee were fully satisfied as to his fitness. The result of additional inquiry and personal interviews was that an engagement was offered to Mr. Gunn—a step which is likely to advance the starting of the University by a very considerable period. Before setting out the conditions of the appointment I would like to give to the public some of the testimonials submitted to the sub-committee.

The first is from Sir Charles Lucas, who interested himself warmly in our new institution, to myself:—

"I hear from Mr. Matheson, of Oxford, that you are prepared to consider the name of Mr. Hugh Gunn in connection with the Principalship of the new University at Perth. I have written to Mr. Gunn at the latest address which we have, asking him to communicate with you, and if you care to call here some day you shall know what we have on record about him. I believe him to be an exceptionally good man, and am authorised

by Lord Selborne to say that he had the highest opinion of him. He should serve your purpose admirably."

The second, to Mr. Cyril Jackson, is from Mr. H. F. Wilson, late Colonial Secretary and Acting Lieutenant-Governor, Orange River Colony:—

"Your letter of the 5th July, respecting Mr. Gunn, only reached me this morning, as my house in Ovington Square is let. I have just telegraphed to you that I can strongly recommend Mr. Gunn for the appointment mentioned, and now write, as promised, to confirm this recommendation. As Colonial Secretary of the Orange River Colony during the Crown colony regime I was in constant and almost daily communication with Mr. Gunn, as the Education Department, of which he was director, fell within the scope of my duties. He was, as is well known, remarkably successful in extending and organising the elementary education of the Colony during the difficult years which followed the conclusion of the war, and gained the respect and good-will of the whole community, Dutch and English, by his capacity, geniality, and tact. He was the moving spirit in the establishment of the Grey University College, when, on the initiation of the Governor, Sir Hamilton Goold Adams, the old Grey College (a secondary boys' school), was moved to a new situation outside the town of Bleemfontein, and largely by his advice the occasion was seized for creating as a separate institution the Grey University College for matriculated students. He saw both these schemes through their initial and final stages, and the Orange River Colony was provided with a first-rate boarding school on English lines, and a University College, which has already, I believe, some 80 students. I gather that the Western Australian Government intends to establish a University College at Perth, and that if Mr. Gunn were chosen as organiser his work in connection with it would be very similar to that which he successfully accomplished for the Orange River Colony, viz., the planning of new buildings, the preparation of draft statutes, and the giving of advice as to faculties, etc. As a member of the Executive Council I had occasion to see what he did in all these directions, and his work was uniformly good. Mr. Gunn was also a member of the Commission appointed on behalf of the various Governments of South Africa (before the Union) by the High Commissioner to report on the question of establishing a University for the whole country, with affiliated colleges, and he has represented the colony at the Educational Conference in England. I may add that he is a man whose personality is very attractive, and who gets on well with superiors and subordinates. He is